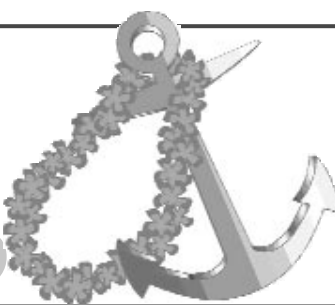


Hawaii Navy News



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IN BRIEF

Town Hall Meetings to address COLA decrease

Pay representatives from the Department of Defense will discuss the upcoming Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) decrease at two town hall meetings on Aug. 13 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Hickam Air Force Base's Memorial Theater.

Sailors and their families will have the opportunity to ask questions and address their concerns about the COLA decrease.

The decreased COLA index for Hawaii goes into effect Aug. 1. The revised rate reflects a COLA decrease of approximately 25 percent. Sailors will see the change reflected in their Aug. 13 paychecks.

More information about COLA, including how to compute your COLA rate, is available online at www.dtic.mil/perdiem/allowcol.html.

Leaving on a jet plane?

Government housing residents who plan to be away from their home for more than seven days must notify the housing office in writing.

The applicable forms, Request for Securing Government Quarters, are available at the housing Office. Arrangements must be made for a representative (active duty military or family member) to take responsibility for the residence.

For safety reasons, a key should be left with the authorized representative. An absence from quarters of more than 30 days is considered an exception to policy and requires written approval from COMNAVREG Hawaii.

National night out

The 16th annual crime prevention promotional event, hosted by Catlin, Halsey, Radford, Miller Community Association, takes place this year on August 3. Interested individuals and groups can call 835-4245.

INSIDE HNN



We're 'number one': The Navy Exchange, Pearl Harbor and Navy Region Hawaii won the Bingham Award for excellence in the 'superstore' category. **B-1**

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AVIP hosts 'Town Hall' meeting

By J03 Brenda Diggs

HNN STAFF WRITER

The Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP) Agency, which consists of servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians from all services, visited Pearl Harbor last Friday to talk about the Anthrax vaccine.

An open house was held to provide a wide variety of information about the Anthrax disease and why the vaccine is important to the military.

About 50 active duty and reserve servicemembers and family members from all branches of the military turned out to learn about and voice their concerns on the Anthrax disease and vaccine.

Anthrax is produced by the bacteria *Bacillus Anthracis*. A tough protective coat allows the bacteria to survive for decades as spores. It is highly lethal and is one of the easiest biological agents to manufacture. Anthrax is relatively easy to develop as a weapon, easily spread in the air over a large area and easily stored for a long period of time. Anthrax is almost always deadly if not treated early.

Anthrax exposure is difficult to detect. There is no cloud, color, smell or taste.



J03 Brenda Diggs photo

Lt. Col. Gaston Randolph, director of DoD AVIP, addresses active duty, reservists and family members about Anthrax. The AVIP agency members visited military bases throughout Oahu to provide servicemembers and their families with the most current information about Anthrax.

Also, there is no indication of an attack when dispersed by aerosol spray. There are three types of Anthrax diseases: "Inhalation is the dis-

ease that the military is most concerned about because there is no effective treatment for unvaccinated victims of inhalation an-

thrax," said Lt. Col. Gaston Randolph, director of DoD

▼ See ANTHRAX, A-6

Anthrax questions answered

By Margaret Tippy

TRIPLER AMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"The bottom line is taking the Anthrax Vaccine can improve quality of life and reduce deaths," said Maj. Guy Strawder, director of the military's Anthrax Vaccination and Immunization Program (AVIP).

He was speaking at Tripler Army Medical Center at one of many open houses provided on Oahu July 19 - 23.

Strawder's team offered Anthrax open houses and briefings to all military services.

The professional staff answered questions posed by service members at Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force locations. More than 1,000 service members took advantage of the opportunity within the first two days of open house briefings to get their questions answered.

"The Anthrax vaccine is supported by the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, and the Federal Drug Administration," Strawder said. "Anthrax is as deadly as the Ebola virus. It would be

▼ See ANSWERED, A-7

DACOWITS visits Oahu installations

By J03 Brenda Diggs

HNN STAFF WRITER

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) visited military installations throughout Oahu recently listening to both men and women's concerns about women's roles in the military.

There are still some barriers up for women in the service. DACOWITS is making recommendations to remove these barriers and researching why or when the barriers can or cannot be removed. The committee has made

recommendations to the Secretary of Defense that Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) in the Army and Special Operations Forces (SOF) rotary wing aviation be open to women. Also, the committee is addressing the issue of women on submarines in the Navy. Quality of Life issues such as improvement of the battle dress uniform (BDUs) and better availability to health care and family programs for reserve forces are also being looked into by the committee.

The committee is composed of 35 civilian men and women from all over the

country who are appointed by the Secretary of Defense. Members are selected on the basis of their strong records in civic leadership and their outstanding reputations in business, education, respective professions or public service.

All members are required to periodically visit nearby military installations to ensure they are kept up to speed with current military activities. Also, members must participate in semianual conferences and conduct a two-week overseas trip to speak with women

▼ See DACOWITS, A-10

Drinking water treatment safer

PUBLIC WORKS CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Do you ever wonder whether your drinking water is safe? Here in Hawaii, the Navy takes great pride in providing its users with the highest quality and safest water available. To meet this goal, the Navy Public Works Center, Pearl Harbor (PWC Pearl), your drinking water provider, is completing the installation of two new disinfection systems to its water stations. These systems provide a safer, and more environmental-friendly alternative to using chlorine gas, the method formally used to disinfect the Navy's water supply.

Although water from Hawaii's aquifers is pure, it can pick up bacteria while passing through the distribution system. Chlorine gas has long been the conventional way to disinfect drinking water because of its simplicity; but, for workers exposed to the gas, it can be dangerous and deadly. For this reason, the Environmental Protection Agency has made the storage and use of chlorine gas very restrictive.

"Safety requirements by the Clean Air Act for storing and handling chlorine gas have become more demanding and very difficult to abide by," said Paul Eyre, commodity engineer, steam, air and water division. "We've found two other options to disinfect the water."

One disinfection option, installed by the Center's Steam, Air and Water Division at the Navy's Halawa and Wahiawa stations, is a method that produces the disinfectant sodium hypochlorite (similar to household bleach) by combining salt, water, and electricity. System water is fed through a salt saturation tank comprised of common rock salt that creates a 30 percent brine solution. The brine is then diluted with system water and passed through electrolytic cells. The cells apply a low voltage DC current to the brine producing a 0.8 percent solution of sodium hypochlorite and hydrogen. The hypochlorite, which is stored in a tank, is then injected into the outgoing potable water. The hy-

▼ See WATER, A-9

Former Arizona Sailor interred with his shipmates

By J02 Greg Cleghorne

HNN EDITOR

There is a bond of friendship and camaraderie Sailors have when they've served aboard an active duty fighting ship and there are few higher compliments a Sailor can call another than "shipmate."

The shared experience of both good times and bad make Sailors "shipmates" for life.

One such shipmate who served aboard the USS Arizona was Don Harrison Starks.

In a twist of fate, he wasn't on board when his ship was attacked and sunk Dec. 7, 1941. But, like many survivors of that terrible day, he kept the memories.

Survivors bear the emotional

scars and the burden of the nagging question many survivors ask, "my friends died, why was I spared?"

After a distinguished Navy career and a full life, at 81 years of age, Starks passed away.

His children, Don Jr., Mark and daughter Pat, took a last trip with their father to Pearl Harbor to attend a private ceremony on the USS Arizona Memorial.

After an invocation and prayer from Lt. Cmdr. Bettie Davis and a 21-gun salute by Naval Station Pearl Harbor's regional ceremonial guard firing detail, Starks' ashes were carefully taken by two parks department divers and interred

▼ See ARIZONA, A-4



J02 Greg Cleghorne photo

Naval Station ceremonial honor guard rifle detail rendered honors at a recent interment of a former USS Arizona crewmember.